

## CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

## AMENDMENTS

### In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 4 and add new claims 8-10 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i) as set forth in the "clean" version set forth below. Entry is respectfully requested. A version with markings to show the changes made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii) is attached hereto as Appendix A.

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1. (Twice Amended) A voice switch system comprising:  
a transmitting side attenuation section for attenuating a microphone input voice signal having a first level to produce a transmitted voice signal having a second level;  
a receiving side attenuation section for attenuating a received voice signal having a third level to produce a speaker output voice signal having a fourth level;  
a transmitting side control section for comparing said first level of said microphone input voice signal with said fourth level of said speaker output voice signal to obtain a first difference therebetween, said transmitting side control section controlling, dependent on said first difference, an amount of attenuation of said microphone input voice signal in said transmitting side attenuation section; and

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a receiving side control section for comparing said second level of said transmitted voice of signal with said third level of said-received voice signal to obtain a second difference therebetween, said receiving side control section controlling, dependent on said second difference, an amount of attenuation of said received voice signal in said receiving side attenuation means.

2. (Twice Amended) A voice switching system as claimed in claim 1, said receiving side control section further comprising:

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a transmitting side signal delay buffer for providing said transmitted voice signal with a delay time, said delay time corresponding to a time for which said transmitted voice signal returns as said received voice signal through a communication line;

a transmitting side signal power estimation section for estimating a signal power of said transmitted voice signal outputted from said transmitting side signal delay buffer;

a receiving side signal power estimation section for estimating a signal power of said received voice signal;

a comparator for comparing said estimated signal power of said transmitted voice signal estimated by said transmitting side signal power estimation section with said estimated signal power of said received voice signal estimated by said receiving side signal power estimation section to obtain a ratio therebetween; and

a first attenuation amount calculation section for calculating an amount of attenuation in said receiving side attenuation section based on said ratio outputted from said first comparator.

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4. (Twice Amended) A voice switching system as claimed in claim 1, said transmitting side controller further comprising:

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a microphone input power estimation section for estimating a signal power of said microphone input voice signal:

a speaker output signal delay buffer for providing said speaker output voice signal with a delay time, said delay time corresponding to a time for which a voice outputted from said speaker becomes said microphone input voice signal by a sound coupling with said microphone;

a first speaker output power estimation section for estimating a signal power of said speaker output voice signal outputted from said speaker output signal delay buffer;

B2 a comparator for comparing an estimated signal power of aid microphone input voice signal estimated by said microphone input power estimation section with an estimated signal power of said speaker output voice signal estimated by said first speaker output power estimation section to obtain a ratio therebetween; and

an attenuation amount calculation section for calculating an amount of attenuation in said transmitting side attenuation section based on said ratio outputted from said second comparator.

8. (New) A voice switching system comprising:  
a first receiver which receives a first voice signal;  
a first attenuation circuit which receives the first voice signal from the first receiver and produces a first attenuated signal;  
a first control circuit coupled to the first attenuation circuit;  
a second receiver which receives a second voice signal;  
a second attenuation circuit which receives the second voice signal from the second receiver and produces a second attenuated signal; and  
a second control circuit coupled to the second attenuation circuit; wherein  
the first control circuit receives the first voice signal and the second attenuated signal, the first control circuit compares the first voice signal and the second attenuated signal and produces a first attenuation control signal in response thereto, the first attenuation control signal controls an attenuation of the first attenuation circuit; and  
the second control circuit receives the second voice signal and the first attenuated signal, the second control circuit compares the second voice signal and the first attenuated signal and produces a second attenuation control signal in response thereto, the second attenuation control signal controls an attenuation of the second attenuation circuit.

9. (New) The voice switching system as recited in claim 8, wherein the first control section comprises:

a buffer which receives the second attenuated signal, and delays the second attenuated signal with a delay time substantially equal to a time for the second attenuated signal to travel from the second attenuation circuit to the first attenuation circuit through a communication line, thereby producing a delayed second attenuated signal;

a first power estimation section coupled to the buffer, the first power estimation section estimates a power of the delayed second attenuated signal and produces an output in response thereto;

a second power estimation section which receives the first voice signal, estimates a power of the first voice signal and produces an output in response thereto;

a comparator which receives and compares the outputs of the first and second power estimation sections and produces an output in response thereto; and

an attenuation amount calculation section which receives the output of the comparator and produces the first attenuation control signal in response thereto.

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10. (New) The voice switching system as recited in claim 8, wherein the second control section comprises:

a first power estimation section which receives the second voice signal, estimates a power of the second voice signal and produces an output in response thereto;

a buffer which receives the first attenuated signal, and delays the first attenuated signal with a delay time substantially equal to a time for the first attenuated signal to travel from a speaker connected to the first attenuation circuit to the second receiver, thereby producing a delayed first attenuated signal;

a second power estimation section coupled to the buffer, the second power estimation section estimates a power of the delayed first attenuated signal and produces an output in response thereto;

a comparator which receives and compares the outputs of the first and second power estimation sections and produces an output in response thereto;

an attenuation amount calculation section which receives the output of the comparator and produces the second attenuation control signal in response thereto.

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